



SUMMARY OF THE DRAFT STATE PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 10/1/99 to 9/30/01

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INTRODUCTION

The federal Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) is an aggregate of several funding sources that is distributed in block grants by the federal government to the states and territories. The majority of the funds are to be used to provide child care services to families who meet certain income and need criteria. A portion of the funding (at least four percent of the block grant amount) is to be used for activities to improve the quality of child care. Another portion (not to exceed five percent of the block grant amount) is to be used to pay for costs of administering the CCDF.

The purpose of the CCDF is to increase the availability, affordability and quality of child care services. Every two years, states and territories receiving CCDF block grants must prepare and submit to the federal government a plan detailing how these funds will be allocated and expended.

This summary highlights the major provisions, activities and services that are contained in California's proposed State Plan for CCDF for the period from October 1, 1999 through September 30, 2001.

PLAN OVERVIEW

Part 1 of the State Plan describes how the federal CCDF funding and activities will be administered. The California Department of Education, through contractors and other State agencies, will administer and implement all services, programs and activities funded under the CCDF in accordance with applicable laws and regulations and in accordance with the provisions of the State Plan.

Part 2 describes how the CCDF child care program was developed, and in particular, the consultation, coordination and partnerships that occurred in developing this proposed State Plan.

Part 3 describes the child care services offered under this Plan. Included are descriptions of the range of child care services provided, payment rates for the provision of child care (based upon market rate surveys), eligibility criteria for child

care services, priority rules for serving children, information about the sliding fee scale for child care services, and a description of the certificate (voucher) payment system. The Plan identifies a full range of child care and development services that are offered throughout the State in both licensed and license-exempt settings, including centers, family child care homes, in the provider's home, or in the child's home. It also provides a description of family fees for child care and development services using a sliding fee scale based on family income and family size. The Plan specifies that CCDF provides services to children from birth to thirteen years except that services are available to eighteen years for a child with physical or mental incapacity.

Part 4 describes processes with parents, including the process for a family to apply/receive child care services; the length of eligibility for CCDF services; how the State maintains a record of substantiated parental complaints and makes such information available to the public; and the procedure for affording parents unlimited access to their children when in care.

Child care and development services will be provided either through direct services contracts with centers or family child care home networks, or through a certificate system used by Alternative Payment Programs and county welfare departments.

Part 5 describes the activities and services to improve the quality and availability of child care. Federal statute requires that not less than four percent of the Federal Child Care and Development Fund allocation be used for quality improvement activities. An estimated \$49,381,000.00 will be expended on quality improvement activities in California. The proposed activities include:

Infant/Toddler Capacity Building

- Program for Infant/Toddler Caregivers
- Infant Toddler Specialist for Healthline
- Start-up and Resource Grants
- Expand Child Care Initiative Project with an Infant/Toddler Focus
- Outreach Sessions
- Inclusion of Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities
- Expand Program for Infant/Toddler Caregiver Institutes
- Stipend for Trainers with an Infant/Toddler Focus
- Regional Training Coordinators
- Model Sites

Resource and Referral Programs

Support for statewide system of Resource and Referral programs in every county

School-Age Capacity Building

Before-and After-School Program Grants
Training for School-Age Program Professionals (Teachers and Administrators)
Stipend for Trainers with a School-Age and After-School Focus
School-Age Curriculum and Materials Development and Distribution

Comprehensive Consumer Education

Consumer Education Campaign
800-KIDS-793 Phone Line for Parents
Parent Involvement Initiative

Grants or Loans to Providers to Assist in Meeting State or Local Standards

Local Child Care Planning Councils
Local Program Quality Consortia

Monitoring of Compliance with Licensing and Regulatory Requirements

Implementation of the desired results system for children and parents
Evaluate Program Quality Improvement Activities
Trustline Registry of License-Exempt Providers

Training and Technical Assistance

Child Development Training Consortium
Healthline
Health and Safety Training for Licensed and License-Exempt Providers
Training to Support Staff Working with Children with Limited-English Proficiency
Regional Resource Centers to Develop Capacity in Underserved Areas

Compensation for Child Care Providers

Mentor Teacher/Director Program
Stipend for Permit
Child Development Teacher and Supervisor Grant Program
Training on Compensation Guidelines for Program Administrators

Other Quality Activities Consistent with the Purposes and Requirements of the CCDF

Training TANF Recipients as Child Care Teachers
Pre-kindergarten Learning and Development Guidelines
Statewide Network for Child Development Permit Matrix
Professional Growth Advisors
Public Broadcasting Preschool Education Project
Family Child Care Provider Training
Child Care Initiative Project
Map to Inclusive Child Care
Inclusion of Children with Disabilities and Special Needs

Part 6 describes the health and safety requirements for child care providers in centers, group homes, family child care homes, and in-home settings that are paid with CCDF funds. This part includes descriptions of how State licensing requirements are enforced, and how assurances are made that children receiving CCDF funded child care are appropriately immunized.